

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 CANBER 02233 170802 Z

10

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SS-15 NSC-10 PM-09 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 PA-03 PRS-01 USIA-12 CPR-02 RSR-01

/079 W

----- 087780

R 170740 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0777

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 2233

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP, AS

SUBJECT: TRIP TO THE UNITED STATES BY LEADER OF THE  
OPPOSITION SNEDDEN

1. LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION, BILLY SNEDDEN, TALKED  
CONFIDENTIALLY WITH ME THIS NOON REGARDING HIS PROPOSED  
TRIP TO WASHINGTON ABOUT JUNE 11-14. AS LEADER OF THE  
OPPOSITION, HE WOULD, OR COURSE, LIKE TO SEE PRESIDENT  
NIXON. I TOLD HIM THIS WOULD BE HIGHLY UNLIKELY, BUT  
I WOULD TRANSMIT HIS REQUEST. HE RECOGNIZES THE DIFFICULTY  
OF SEEING THE PRESIDENT BEFORE PRIME MINISTER WHITLAM SEES  
HIM AND ALSO THE IMPLICATIONS OF SEEING THE PRESIDENT  
IF WHITLAM IS NOT INVITED TO SEE HIM IN AUGUST.
  2. SNEDDEN IS ESPECIALLY EAGER TO HAVE A WARM WELCOME BY  
SECRETARY ROGERS, KISSINGER AND SCHULTZ. HE FEELS IT WOULD  
BE BETTER NOT TO VISIT WASHINGTON UNLESS HE CAN HAVE A  
WARM RECEPTION, ESPECIALLY ON WHICH MIGHT LEAVE OPEN  
THE PROBABILITY OF SEEING THE PRESIDENT ON A SUBSEQUENT  
VISIT.
  3. HIS DATES ARE FLEXIBLE WITHIN THE LIMITS OF JUNE 10  
TO ABOUT THE THIRD WEEK IN AUGUST WHEN PARLIAMENT  
RECONVENES. HE ALSO PLANS TO VISIT LONDON ON THIS  
TRIP. IF WHITLAM SEES THE PRESIDENT IN AUGUST, SNEDDEN  
OBVIOUSLY WOULD BE DELIGHTED TO FOLLOW HIM AT A LATER DATE
- CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 CANBER 02233 170802 Z

IN AUGUST. WHITLAM ALLOWS OPPOSITION LEADER ONLY ONE TRIP  
A YEAR.

4. SNEDDEN IS ESPECIALLY APPREHENSIVE THAT PRIME MINISTER  
WHITLAM WOULD PLAY UP A VISIT WITH PRESIDENT NIXON AS " A  
COMPLETE RESTORATION OF HIS GOOD RELATIONS WITH AMERICA  
WHICH, OF COURSE, IT WOULD NOT BE." HE BELIEVES WHITLAM  
IS EAGER TO PUT THE OPPOSITION LEADER IN POSITION OF BEING  
SNUBBED IN WASHINGTON. THIS, HE SAYS, WOULD BE " TRUMPED"  
BY THE LABOR PARTY AND WOULD BE VERY DAMAGING POLITICALLY.  
HE POINTS OUT THAT HE HAS BEEN " DEFENDING THE AUSTRALIAN"  
AMERICAN ALIANCE WHILE IT HAS BEEN UNDER ATTACK BY THE  
LABOR PARTY." IF HE RECEIVED A LUKEWARM RECEPTION IN  
WASHINGTON, IT WOULD HAVE A DEVASTATING EFFECT ON THE  
AUSTRALIAN PUBLIC AND WOULD CREATE POLITICAL CAPITAL FOR THE  
LABOR PARTY.

RICE

CONFIDENTIAL

\*\*\* Current Handling Restrictions \*\*\* n/a

\*\*\* Current Classification \*\*\* CONFIDENTIAL

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 17 APR 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** golinofr  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1973CANBER02233  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GDS  
**Errors:** n/a  
**Film Number:** n/a  
**From:** CANBERRA  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1973/newtext/t19730445/aaaairpm.tel  
**Line Count:** 85  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE  
**Office:** ACTION EA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** golinofr  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 22 OCT 2001  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <22-Oct-2001 by cunninfx>; APPROVED <11-Dec-2001 by golinofr>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** <DBA CORRECTED> jms 980123  
**Subject:** TRIP TO THE UNITED STATES BY LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION SNEDDEN  
**TAGS:** OVIP, AS  
**To:** EA  
**SECSTATE WASHDC**  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005